



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 15, 2018

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### **Police Department Conducts “IMPACT” Inspections of the Downtown Entertainment District**

Riverside, CA – On November 14, 2018, the Riverside Police Department's Vice Unit completed a special operation to check licensed premises that sell alcohol. Tonight's efforts focused on 17 bars and restaurants that make up the Downtown Entertainment District.

No major violations were discovered by the Vice Unit but noted that follow-up would be conducted at 11 locations to correct minor administrative issues. IMPACT stands for Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies. It is a cooperative program between ABC, local law enforcement agencies, and licensees.

The primary objective of the project is to educate licensees about the various ways they can participate in reducing alcohol-related crimes such as sales to underage and obviously intoxicated persons. IMPACT teams remind licensees of the responsibilities and accountability associated with the sale of alcoholic beverages. This is accomplished by identifying areas of non-compliance and providing crime prevention information.

The focus is to educate rather than to enforce. Even though the teams are prevention oriented, members may take action against any major violations observed during the inspection/visits. Merchants have accepted the program and its philosophy because they are being offered an opportunity to identify weaknesses in their alcoholic beverage sales system and to correct deficiencies without penalties.

Local communities endorse the program as it improves the relationship between law enforcement and merchants. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) through the department's Grant Assistance Program.

